

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. The Office Action has indicated that claims 1-7 and 12-24 stand rejected and the claims 8-11 are objected to. The Examiner's objections and rejections are respectfully traversed below, and reconsideration of all claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 13, claim 14 is amended to depend from claim 12, and claim 17 is amended to correct a typographical error. The amendments to claim 12 incorporate the subject matter of original claim 13, so that claim 12 has the same scope as original claim 13. The amendments to claims 14 and 17 do not change the scope of these claims.

Rejections of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In items 2-3 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 12-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,694,831 to Haroun et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Haroun"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Haroun fails to disclose, teach or suggest at least "A cooking apparatus to cook food, comprising: an electric heating plate having a heating source . . . a cabinet supporting the electric heating plate, the electric heating plate being removable from the cabinet . . . ," as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that Haroun's tray 28 and electrical heating means 36 anticipates the removable "electric heating plate" as recited in claim 1.

However, Haroun actually teaches mounting the oven heating means 36 on the interior of top side 15 of housing 10 and on the interior of base 16 of housing 10 (column 4, lines 45-47), as shown in Figures 2 and 4. Haroun does not disclose, teach or suggest a removable electric heating plate having a source. Instead, Haroun's heating means 36 is mounted (fixed) to housing 10. Accordingly, even if Haroun's tray 28 could be removed from housing 10, heating means 36 is mounted to the interior of housing 10 and cannot be removed with tray 28.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited reference.

Claims 2-3 depend directly from claim 1 and include all the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited reference. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3 also patentably distinguish over the cited reference.

Similarly, it is further respectfully submitted that Haroun fails to disclose, teach or suggest at least “A cooking apparatus, comprising: . . . a cabinet to support . . . cooking sets, at least one of the cooking sets being removable from the cabinet, wherein the cooking sets comprise an electric heating plate, the electric heating plate including a power connection unit electrically connecting a heat source installed in the electric heating plate to the cabinet,” as recited in claim 12. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 also patentably distinguishes over the cited reference.

Claims 14 –16 depend directly on claim 12 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited reference. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14-16 also patentably distinguish over the cited reference.

Also similarly, it is further respectfully submitted that Haroun fails to disclose, teach or suggest at least “A cooking apparatus, comprising: . . . one of the heating plate and the cooking set is removable from . . . cabinet . . .,” as recited in claim 17.

Instead, as discussed above, heating means 36 is mounted to the interior of housing 10 as shown in Figures 2 and 4. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 also patentably distinguishes over the cited reference.

Claims 18-20 depend directly or indirectly upon claim 17 and include all the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited reference. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 18-20 also patentably distinguish over the cited reference.

Rejections of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In items 4-5 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 4-6 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haroun in view of U.S. Patent 4,413,173 to Grove et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Grove”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4-6 depend indirectly from claim 1 and include all the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Grove also does not disclose, teach or suggest at least an “electric heating plate being removable from the cabinet,” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-6 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claims 21-24 depend directly or indirectly from claim 17 and include all the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Grove also does not disclose, teach or suggest at least “one of the heating plate and the cooking

set is removable from the cabinet,” as recited in claim 17. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21-24 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

In item 6 on page 3 of the Office Action, claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Haroun in view of U.S. Patent 3,920,944 to Constable. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 depends indirectly from claim 1 and includes all the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 also patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Objection to claims 8-11

In point 7 of the Office Action, claims 10 and 11 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 1. In addition, the form PTOL-326 indicates that claims 8-9 are also objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Because Haroun, Grove, and Constable, taken separately or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least “A cooking apparatus to cook food, comprising: . . . an electric heating plate having a heat source . . . the electric heating plate being removable from . . . cabinet;. . .,” as recited in claim 1 and discussed above, claims 8-11 patentably distinguish over the cited references and are in condition for allowance.

Summary

Claims 1-12 and 14-24 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned and tend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this amendment, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

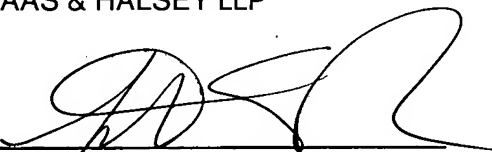
Respectfully submitted,

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